Housing Estates in Singapore

The Housing Development Board (HDB) in Singapore is an essential part of Singapore, nearly everywhere one goes in Singapore, one can see the many HDB flats that occupy the area. The HDB has also played an important role to maintain racial harmony in Singapore. HDB ensures that there is a racial mix in each of the HDB blocks in order for the four main racial groups in Singapore (Chinese, Mala y, Indian and Eurasians) to mix with each other and learn how to accept each other. HDB has also implemented a ratio of the certain different types of races allowed to live in one block. This allows the racial groups to meet with each other and learn each other’s culture in order to understand each other better. In no other part of this world will you be able to find different racial groups sitting together at the void deck of a HDB flat chatting with each other and playing games such as chess. Most HDB flats have their own committee which usually organizes different activities that allow the different racial groups to interact with each other. All these lead to different racial groups in Singapore being able to accept each other as equals and interact with each other, which is found only uniquely in Singapore.

Qualities of Racial Harmony

Racial harmony is a political, economic and foreign policy imperative to Singapore’s survival. Racial harmony is important as it allows the city to develop as the government will not have to deal with issues such as racial riots and can use more of their resources for development of the city. Racial harmony also attracts foreign talents as racial harmony within a country is more attractive for an investor where the investor or businessman does not have to worry about getting caught up in racial riots. This will lead to foreign talents coming to Singapore which will improve its growth rate. By having racial harmony, we can avoid misunderstandings and conflicts of different races which will allow Singapore to become a democratic society.

Christmas

Christmas is a holiday generally observed on the 25th of December to commemorate the birth of Jesus, an important figure in Christianity. Christmas is nowadays celebrated by non-Christians around the world. Modern celebrations of Christmas consist of gift giving, exchanging of Christmas cards and the display of decorations such as Christmas trees, the hanging of mistletoe and holly. Many famous figures related to Christmas have also appeared such as Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas and Father Christmas.

In Singapore, most people celebrate Christmas regardless of their race, language or religion. One can find different races exchanging gifts with each other during the Christmas period. One can also find people from all walks of life in Singapore going to shopping centers during the Christmas period looking for gifts for their family and friends. People in Singapore celebrate Christmas much the same way as westerners, albeit with less fervor.

Overall summary of festivals

Deepavali is a five day festival celebrated by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs. Deepavali begins between September and October and ends between October and November. Deepavali is commonly known as the “Festival of Lights” as many lights and firecrackers are illuminated during this period. The two main reasons for the celebration of Deepavali were to welcome Rama, the seventh avatar of the Supreme God Vishnu, back home after 14 years of banishment. The other was to celebrate the slaying of the demon Naraksura. The celebration of Deepavali takes place over the course of 5 days, which are, *VasuBaras, NarakaChaturdashi, LakshimiPuja, Bali Pratipada* and *Bhaiduj.*

Hari Raya Puasa is a very important occasion that is celebrated by Muslims all over the world; Hari Raya marks the end of one month of fasting for the Muslims. The month in which Muslims fast before Hari Raya Puasa is called Ramandan. During their fasting, the Muslims do not eat or drink for twelve hours. Only the sick and the pregnant are excused from fasting. The purpose of fasting is to remind Muslims to exercise self control and submitting themselves to Allah, the Holy One. On the morning of Hari Raya, Muslims put on new clothes and go to a mosque to pray to offer their thanks to Allah and ask forgiveness from their elders.

Chinese New Year is a celebration to commemorate the new year of the Chinese calendar. The festival falls on a different date every year ranging from the 21st of January and the 20th of February and lasts for fifteen days. During this period, adults would give out red packets to children. These red packets usually contain money or chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil. Firecrackers are also set alight during this point of time to scare away the evil spirits as the explosions from the firecrackers are extremely loud.

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